The Evolution of a Statesman Walter Barr

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE GODS AND KISMET. "Say, Shacklett, can't you run over to Springfield and look into that bill for the regulation of railroads with termini on river boundaries of the State, otherwise the Chicago, Galesburg & Mississippi Rail-I imagine it's worthy of your interest," General Manager Norton was saying during

the private office. "Sorry," replied the general counsel, "but when I stipulated in the beginning that I should attend only to strictly legal business I did it especially to preclude my ever having to work for the road at any capital. I want to be free to introduce a sandbagging bill myself," he laughed, "and I'm not going to do anything which will tend in the least to show that I ought to be for the road in the Legislature. If I'm elected justice of the peace some time

Legislature I'm free to vote against you every time if I want to." . Norton laughed, too, and Shacklett con-

I shall feel bound by my contract to decide

all cases in your favor, but if I go to the

"But I see no objection to recommending good men to you for that work if they're my friends. Now, there's young McKee, of my town, who is a statesman out of a job since he lost a committee clerkship, and he can manage your lobby for you this winter as well as anybody, and better than some you've had there lately. I wish you'd give him the place, and I'll guarantee his

Norton looked at his desk to hide the smile in his eyes at the metaphysics involved in Shacklett's chosen position when it was all worked out, and responded that McKee would be sent for that afternoon.

McKee found that the bill to regulate his particular road was peculiar in that it displayed an astonishing amount of detailed knowledge of the conduct of railroads, and their desires which are kept the most deeply hidden. The strangest thing was that a member from far down in Egypt, who had been raising horses and wheat for thirty years, should happen to light upon so many particular distasteful features and get them into one bill. Of course, a lawyer had written it, but the member made no secret of the fact that he had caused his son-in-law, a lawyer in a country town, to fix up the language and insert "said" and "provided" in the proper

The lobbyist in charge of the interests of the railroad spent a week studying the member who introduced the bill, and then decided to seek elsewhere for an opening in the lines of the enemy. The member certainly was in earnest, and, curiously enough, was honest in his views.

"There's bills enough bein' introduced here," he said, "an' I wouldn't add to the straw comin' out of the thrashin' machine if I don't believe that a bill like mine oughter be passed. You fellers can't understand the farmer any more than the farmer can understand you, so I don't see much use of our argering. But I expect to find enough members here who can understand it to get it passed-that is, if you don't buy up too many o' 'em. I hain't goin' to preach about your corrupt methods, for all's fair in war, an' that's the way you fight. But if I can beat you with my own little game I'm goin' to do it."

Then McKee went to two or three members who had shown themselves earnest supporters of the farmer member's bill. He got little satisfaction from them. One of them talked about the oppression by capital and the danger to the country from corporation greed and the other things so glibly that McKee knew that he did not believe what he was saying, and was using it for a mask. But he found it impossible to pull off the mask. Only one of them was candid with him, and this one said:

"Young man, I know pretty well what your road's worth, and within a few thousand what it has to spend, but I want to tell you that you're raised out of this game and are playing in company too rich for your blood. If this bill hit other roads so they could pool they would probably break the push behind the bill, but your one road can't do it by itself, and I know it, and you'll find it out by failing to weaken our

"But who can have enough affirmative game, and enough money to do it that he wants to spend in that way-how can he make anything by it?" McKee asked, boldly, hoping that the candor of the other man would extend to some valuable informa-

"I don't know how he's going to make anything by the bill passing," was the reply, "and, to tell the truth, I don't know exactly who he is, but I know he's spending hardly any money. I didn't say he was, did I? There's other valuable considerations around here besides legal tender, ain't there?"

"I see," said McKee, with puckered lips, "it's influence. Who has the appointments? The Governor and the senator; but what are they up to? We might satisfy them in some other way if they'll only state

what they want." "No; it's not the Governor nor the senator; I'm pretty sure from what I know, It seems to me, young man, that you'd better post yourself on the situation before you expect to bust the machine you're up against. I wouldn't tell you if I knew who's behind the measure, but I will tell you that I get out of it certain things that will be worth more to me than any money that's paid around here very often."

McKee felt that his future was at stake, for if he executed this job for the railroad Norton would keep him for years in charge of the railroad lobby at Springfield at a good salary and with plenty of chances to pick up something besides. But if he failed somebody else would succeed him before the session was a week older. He knew that results are the measure of efficiency in the lobby, and that there was no argument in anything else. He saw the bill referred to committee and heard the chairman tell its sponsor that it would be reported back the following week. He saw member after member suddenly take an interest in the bill, and the only light he got was by noticing that those whose terms expired with the session and who would b up again soon for re-election composed the principal part of those sending the bill along toward passage and signature. He soon found out that the Governor would sign the bill if it passed and would not meddle in the matter, or consider it, before the bill had got through the Legislature. In despair he ran down to Warsaw one morning and saw Shacklett.

"I understand you guaranteed my value to the company," he said, "and I came to tell you that you'll have to meet the paper when it's due, from the present outlook. I never saw such a close combination be hind any bill as there is behind this one. and it's as powerful as it's invisible. It's out: like a big trolley car pushing along with

the dynamo hid in a swamp, and the swamp not on the map. If you don't get into that side of the road's affairs, can't you help me personally? I hope you catch the distinetion." And McKee tried hard to laugh.

"I think you can work it out if you go at it right," Shacklett said, with a little way? It's the most peculiar sandbagging display of interest. "It's always the best measure I ever had held over my head, and | rule to bunch your shots, in legislatures as well as in fighting in the navy. Now, if it were I, although I'm not posted enough to a chat over many affairs of the road in know much about this case, I'd let the main line of privates and noncoms. alone and fire all my ammunition at one shot at the commander-in-chief. That might workbut I can't tell, of course, as you can, when you've been there so long."

"That 'so long' was unkind," wailed Mc-Kee, "and how can I do that when I can't find out who the commander-in-chief is? I'd give half what Norton allowed me to

Shacklett laid cown the law book which he had been furtively reading while they were talking, and looked at McKee for almost the first time.

"I'll tell you frankly," he said, "that I

don't want to have anything to do with this part of the company's business, and I don't want to talk to you about it, but evidently the chairman of the committee that has the bill knows his business and knows whom he's working for. Now, why don't you go to him and talk business from the jump? Find out what will bring him off the perch, and then shoot it at him. That's what I'd do. But I don't even advise you to do it, nor suggest it to you for action. Let me do something else for you, and don't mix me up in this thing, please.' McKee went out vexed, but the more he thought of the plan Shacklett had laid down the better he liked it, and, at any rate, there was nothing else to do, as far as he could see. So, as soon as he back he asked the committee chairman up to his room at the hotel, having casually met him in the corridor.

"I've been thinking that you folks weren't taking much interest in that bill," the chairman replied to McKee's opening, "and there's not the least doubt that it will make farmer votes for me and the rest of them by the wagonbedful. What benefit do you think the State will derive from its defeat that is greater than a wagonbedful of ballots?"

"A hundred thousand dollars more," said McKee, quietly and firmly.

"Then hunt up somebody to pay the money to, and your handful of artistic engravings is better than theirs full of cheap job printing. That lets me out, of course. I don't mind telling you, so that you'll understand it, that a hundred million dollars is no temptation to me, and I think you ought to know it yourself if you're capable

of earning your salary in the third house." "Senator," McKee said, groping in darkness again and at the extreme end of his string, "would you mind telling the unknown, invisible, impalpable, unfindable, indefinite spook that drew that bill and is pushing it along here like a heavy express train on a down grade, that if it will tell me the mystic words which will send it back where it belongs and stop its infernal work in this Legislature, I'll say them, and I don't care what they are. I'm exceeding the limit given me, but I don't care. I'll give our road away and hunt another one to work for, but I'll kill this sandbagging bill if I have to sell the devil my well-earned right to the chairmanship of his committee on thermostats and ap-

The chairman leaned back and laughed heartily, while McKee continued to scowl. "Oh, yes: I'll be medium for you," he said. "Come to my room to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock, after I've had my great materializing seance."

When McKee kept the appointment he sat down without a word, and, while he looked expectantly at the chairman, he said nothing, for he was thoroughly discouraged and disgusted with the problem that had not only no solution by any known rules, but not even a point of attack. The chairman's eyes twinkled at the remembrance of his last speech at the hotel as he opened the conversation briskly.

"There's one way to beat that bill." he said, "and only one. I will never report it out of committee, and you can go into the committee room and steal it if you want to, provided---"

McKee leaned forward almost over the table and looked straight into the chairman's eyes, which only continued to laugh back at him. A twinkle is a mask for the eyes that nothing can penetrate or behind, and McKee was furious, although he did not dare to show it. He kept silent and perfectly motionless for the several seconds that the chairman paused. Then the latter went on-

"Provided that you pay the sum of \$5,000 in cash, with a contract for suitable employment for life to Lawrence P. McNoo-

"We'll do it," snapped out McKee, like the breathing of a taut violin string. "But who the devil is Lawrence P. McNoogan?" "He's the plaintiff in a suit against your road for damages resulting from the killing of his cow and the breaking of his leg, which suit is now appealed from the refusal of the trial court to give him a new hearing. His lawyer is out of the case, having given it up in disgust and because he is busy defending himself from various criminal charges. Since he has no attorney now it will be necessary for your road to appear and of its own motion allow the

won't need to employ another lawyer Even if McKee had failed to find the mechanism concealed in the box it was pretty evident that the pendulum started by Larry's cow was still swinging. What it accomplished after that belongs to the chronicles of an ordinary life with another

granting of a new trial, and then consent

to the entering of judgment for \$5,000. He

On the evening before the next Fourth of | the opportunities for plucking and eating | as to right and wrong, and such things July McKee was trying to comply with the apples, now forbidden fruit to them- which ministers have and successful poli-Shacklett's request to find his celebration | the eating of which involved governmental | ticians have not. He was only a little over speech in the middle drawer of his desk, while Shacklett himself packed his valise in time to catch the train. When the general counsel of the railroad came in hurriedly to pick up the manuscript and drive rapidly to the station he found McKee standing beneath the electric lamp with several sheets of cap paper in his hand.

cow and the children, and not to the pres-

McKee looked up at Shacklett with distended eyes and open mouth, looked back | plished at the paper, and then at Shacklett again. The paper was covered with writing much interlined and crossed out, with notations scattered through it, and additions to sentences running up and down the sides. Shacklett hardly noticed McKee and said

"Got my speech? Let's have it. Much obliged, but I'd have missed that train if I'd tried to find it myself." McKee at last found his voice, though it | State with a taste for politics and an ambi- a constant source of joy to Shacklett. The

sounded little like his own as he blurted

self. It's right here in your own handwriting-the first draft. What the-" "See here, McKee," and Shacklett's voice was as quiet as a frozen pond and as hard and cold as ice, "McNoogan got what I wanted him to have, and you got a position at three thousand per. No man ever threw me down and kept out of the poorhouse.

Understand me?" McKee threw the draft of the bill into the grate and held out the manuscript of the oration for next day with a steady look into Shacklett's eyes. Shacklett caught the train, and the audience which heard his Fourth of July oration upon "The Political Methods of the Founders of the Republic" found it very enjoyable, partly because it was so different from the routine grist of Independence day addresses and was full of information of a kind seldom given in popular histories.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE INTANGIBLE FORCE. In his travels to the courts and to make speeches at Fourth of July celebrations and at picnics given by various organizations Shacklett found himself in the midst of a great force, intangible chiefly because it was not named. He kept out of politics entirely at this time, but could not keep out of contact with the people in the aggregate any more than he could stay away from a public sale in the old days, or his mother keep away from a quilting bee down in the home of his boyhood before he was born. He heartily enjoyed attending and speaking at these public meetings, and his hold on his audiences seemed greater than ever pefore now that he did not care for their franchises, the concrete representation of their good will and admiration. He found it a new pleasure, and a great one, to mix with people with no ulterior object for his natural sociability, and he found that he liked best to talk to wellinformed, sensible laboring men in and out

The intangible force permeating all around him was easily felt by Shacklett and easily understood by him, although he had only the casual interest in it that one takes in a real giant if one has been in the museum business. The component parts of the intangible force took the same interest in Shacklett that Wall street takes in a Stock Exchange, or that an old and hardworking criminal takes in a reformed burglar who is living up to his new position as superintendent of a Sunday school-the intangible force itself will prefer one simile, and another more tangible force exerted in another direction will prefer the other figure. For the intangible force was not exerting its influence upon the mobile body politic unopposed, though it was never neutralized and little diverted from its original direction of action.

The moment the intangible force was named it became somewhat tangible, but it really was not named because of a dispute about terminology-it wanted itself called the organization, and the opposing force wanted it called the machine. Since i were better so, for practical purposes, it was little known to the masses of voters, whose hands it guided as ballots were marked in the election booths. The force became tangible some years later, and at once the organization divided, or the machine burst to pieces, whichever form of expression one prefers. To Shacklett it was as beautiful a piece of mechanism as his watch, and he understood it much better than he did the works in the gold case because he was not a watchmaker, but was a politician by birthright and education. He called the intangible force the organization to other lawyers, as being the more polite term, and he called it the machine to himself and wife, as being the most appropriate name for it and a more direct

expression. The intangible force, which always had been resistless, had the velocity and something of the diffusion of electricity. At a greater rate of speed than an order from the brain moves the foot an order from its Governor joined him-except those who source moved whole county conventions. two hundred miles away from Springfield. the neuraxion moving the hand. These Since Shacklett finally was mixed up in the whirling wheels and cams and eccentrics force-and it was not faith without works. of this organization, it may be called in these historical pages the machine, as a convenient term used without intention of

The machine was delightfully simple when one understood it. There were two men, Black and Ramsey, in the center of These men had a more or less intimate acquaintance with people in each county, and had a colonel in each congressional district. In each county was a tried and in its movements in the circle with success trusted captain who had demonstrated his ability to get results, and in each township was a lieutenant who was able to instruct the voters of the party in the correct principles of the selection of the fittest. When the properly instructed voters had selected delegates at the primaries, and these careconvention, it followed logically that the delegates to the state convention and the congressional and the legislative district conventions would be excellent judges of timber from which to hew statesmen. At any rate, they could not go wrong, for before the convention convened they had been told by men close to the source of all wisdom in Springfield which candidates for nomination were the best men. Since nomination was equivalent to election there were opportunities for the return flow of the intangible force moving the convention delegates into offices and surrounding the colonels and captains with sinecures and honors, thus preserving a proper conservation of energy and a correlation of force but at each extreme of its arc it stops for that was perfectly natural.

Sometimes a little heat would be caused by the operation of the opposing force, which was called a body of reformers or a lot of soreheads, according to one's own relation to the two forces. The opposition was by no means as simple a thing as the perceive the much longer, slower, steadier intangible force which it opposed-oppositions are always complex unless they consist of one man each, and then they are called cranks. In this case the opposition was composed of three elements-some good people who did not approve all the manifestations of the intangible force, some bad people who openly admitted that they wanted to be able to do the same objectionable things for their own profit, and some other bad people who secretly desired sins-but who made a great display of thirty years old, tall, sufficiently angular their own political piety as a sheepskin covering for their personal wolfishness. Of course, these three diverse elements could not harmonize into a chord, but were al- than grace of motion. His face and head noved the ears of the persons in power. who were the neurons of the intangible force, although little else was accom-

The opposition had been in existence ever | upper lip hanging wide under expansive since the organization had been perceptible in its results. Its personnel had man who has courage, perseverance, a changed as one or another of its component parts had gone over to the successful pow- and scholarly tastes not warped too much er, or had dropped out of the unequal con- out of shape by transcendental notions. As test, full of disappointment and of bitterness against politics. But its ranks were uppermost, there was much of a change in recruited with greater or less rapidity each the status of the mind of Mr. Barnes, and year, generally from the older men in the this made him a puzzle to some people, and tion not satisfied by the output of the ma- latter thoroughly understood the minister. chine run by the intangible force. The from his deeply religious nature, which "And you wrote that damned bill your- younger men, with an eye always on the made him strain for the righteous thing.

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with success, and there could be no doubt

accession of a whole regiment of deserters

from the enemy. In one case it was the

man whom the intangible force had ele-

vated to the gubernatorial chair and had

placed at the very door of the chamber

from which the power issued-a man whom

preme power itself, in preparation for the

days when the always-present contingency

politicians-should leave a vacancy there.

This man got so close to the generator of

intangible force that he thought he could

handle the wires close to the dynamo he

received a shock from which he did not

hurled him out of the Statehouse, threw

him two hundred miles into his dusty, neg-

lected, musty law office, locked the door

and kept him there. He immediately began

to help the opposition, and the men whom

he had appointed to office while he was

continued their faith in the intangible

Such accessions made the opposition feel

cheerful for a time, but its general mental

attitude was that of a forlorn hope full of

bravery and despair. Success in politics

corresponds to right in other things, and

it is as hard to keep a clear head when

life. So the opposition was as autocratic

in its own working in a circle around fail-

ure as the oragnization was machinelike

Shacklett knew nearly all the leaders of

both sides personally or professionally, but

perfectly their feelings, rejoiced with the

winner and sympathized with the loser.

man in the State with experience enough

to thoroughly sympathize with them all,

as a piano string synchronizes with the

musical tone above it. All of them knew

equally well that he was not in the least

affected by the magnetism of either organ-

ization or opposition, because, as he had

to say every time he was interviewed now

he was absolutely out of politics and in-

tended to stay out of both politics in gen-

eral and the contest between the organiza-

tion and any opposition to it, "if there is

about the situation at all."

any opposition, I really am not informed

The pendulum of fate swings true, regard-

less of any attempt to cause it to swerve,

an instant. This is an observation that is

acter of his father to the character of his

Shacklett had a rather intimate acquaint

ance with Rev. Thomas Barnes, to whon

hampered by duties, conscience, opinion

in form to make his clothes hang upon him

like a lot of family dyeing upon a private

bush, and with more strength of gesture

were the most striking features in his ap

pearance, and the long black hair combed

back from a high forehead, the pale face

with sharp nose and clear-cut features, and

the large mobile mouth with its smooth

nostrils, all gave him the appearance of

good deal of tact, some scheming ability.

mother, but, like all other men, failed t

human ken and human regulation.

for a center.

on which side success steadily sat.

absolutely pure, is richer and goes far-

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future, generally chose to ally themselves to his practical knowledge of men, which made him sometimes talk in formulae which were actually cant phrases skillfully

Once or twice the opposition received the strung together. Another man whom Shacklett liked to hear talk was General French, who lived in a district over on the Wabash river, not far from where ex-Senator Shacklett had been wont to hunt coons, farm, attend court and help conduct the affairs of his the automatic working of the machine county. General French was an elderly would have lifted up into the seat of su- | man, who was accustomed to say to the

younger men: "It's different with me, you know. You of death-recognized only by lawyers and | have the future to live for, but my life is in the past, and whatever will be said in history about me is already accomplished. I can't afford to build for the future as of molecules. But when he undertook to are behind me now."

recover for years. The intangible force proper pride and modesty, to the record of the general, and it suggested the idea that the younger men could afford to keep out of his way, let him have his inning, and then take theirs. He was so dignified that his remarks, although they would have been bombastic many times if spoken by a pompous man, sounded well from under looked back of the hand-giving gifts to his heavy iron-gray mustache, which adorned a face round, wrinkled with good humor, and soured by disappointment at ing when he smiled, and almost haggard when at rest-one of those faces that brave men whipped by fate wear. His hair was still thick, although gray, and added to his dignity, and his fine physique made him a man of distinguished appearance in any asunsuccessful in politics as it is difficult to semblage. He had entered the civil war a web of lines extending all over the State. plan well with a guilty conscience in daily as a lieutenant, and in 1865 was a colonel. He had been brevetted brigadier upon his discharge, and was the specially honored guest at every old-soldier reunion in his part of the State. But he had been a wall flower at every political ball since the war ceased to be much of a factor in politics. The preacher fought the intangible force knew none of them politically. That is to because he believed it to be the highest say, he listened to them talk, understood duty of the hour; the general fought the machine because he saw no chance of becoming even one of its small bevel gears. of a slave. This fundamental principle, so early be decisive on this point. They were attracted by community of terest in at least the first thing to be accomplished-the downfall of the organization-and they discovered that each admired Shacklett. In the conversation they had in the beginning each failed to state to the other what qualities in the ex-senator he especially liked; and if they had exchanged ideas on this point it is probable that events would have been shaped differently and the conversation would have broken up in a discussion without either being convinced. But they talked about the things they did agree upon without discovering the thing they disagreed upon. and the conversation ended in a compact between the minister, who preached politics, and the soldier, who had been vanquished by politics, to make an alliance

> offensive and defensive for a common obaxiomatic in the abstract and never utilized in the concrete. Shacklett recognized the There were trips over the State separatependulum that swung him from the charly, and meetings together at places where railroad lines cross; there was much correspondence with others of the opposition. Finally there was a meeting of half a hunswing of the pendulum, the attachment of dred members of the opposition-each with which is, in the nature of things, above a different ulterior object and each a leader in embyro-at which General French presided and recognized Rev. Thomas Barnes to make the keynote speech. The result he was attracted because of the efforts of of this conference of the clans of the oppothat good man to be a factor in politics sition was that General French and Rev. and a consistent minister at the same time. Thomas Barnes traveled from the place of The good man found it difficult to accommeeting directly to Warsaw, walked out plish results against men who were not to the Heights and had a little conference of their own with the railroad general counsel, who was so completely out of politics that he felt that he would refuse an election as chairman of a mass meeting of

his neighbors. [To Be Continued.]

September. ummer is passing. Lo! the first sure mark, The golden lines September comes to trace Across the shortening day with shining gracehe upland wonder that erstwhile was dark

Hang yellow fringes. Darting shadows chase Along the lawn, or tremble and enlace On groundwork glistening with a golden spark. Pale yellow butterfiles float in the air. In mazy dances up and down they fly, For summer's parting gifts to autumn they Bear lightly, touching here and resting there-September's robes are flushed with golden dye And magic mists enwrap each shortening day

Shows gleaming russet now. The elms o' the

-Louise Brooks.

one or the other of these attributes came Zebedee's Children. New York Evening Sun. "Who was the father of Zebedee's children?" asked the Sunday school teacher. Only it was a question much more recondite, and put in all seriousness by a fastid-ious lady to one of a row of small boys. "You can search me," offered the boy.

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.. Topics in the Churches...

SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON AND CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORK.

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON

ing and Obeying God.

Sept. 14, 1902. Deut. xxx, 11-20-Lov-

It may be frankly admitted that there is some monotony in the Pentateuch. It is occasioned by the reiteration of considerable portions. Then, too, there is almost infinite detail in directions chain it as men do the electric vibration | you can, and you've many chances which | for personal, priestly and tribal conduct. There are the genealogies, the itineraries and the This remark, often repeated, was pointed divers laws, sanitary, ecclesiastical and other. in two directions. It called attention, with The Pentateuch may be a desert of statutory legislation and inventories of places, things and people. It must be acknowledged, however, that this desert is not lacking in oases. And it is well worth while to cross the barren wastes to come upon these gardens of God. They are unsurpassed, if even matched, in literature and, without reference to inspiration, are worthy of attention. They are great thoughts set in language in every way worthy of them. At the same time it is only fair to say that even what Pentateuch are not wanting in suggestiveness. the same time. His countenance was beam- For example, their very monotonous reitera-

are significant of the inveterateness of human Among the cases of the fivefold book, what nized as one of the chiefest. One is almost startled to come upon it so early in the evolution He said: "Love God. Love thy neighbor," but was repeating, with the accent of His own divinity, this age-old injunction. We are consciously at the root of the whole matter. Back of all law and legislation love is the ground of obedience. A loveless obedience is vain. It tends to Pharisaism and hypocrisy. Again, God does not wish the obedience of fear. It has been well said that this commandment teaches with burning conviction that God is too ethical and spiritual in nature to accept the submission once to the level of sons of God. To such the law can never be grievous, for to love all things

Again, in the enunciation of this commandment something extraneous and distant is not appealed to. It is not "hidden or far off," not "in heaven" or "over the sea." It is not at an inaccessible height of an unattainable distance. It is within easy reach. It is in man's own conscience and consciousness, the fundamental principle of human nature.

So, after all, under this elaborate mechanism of ritual and ordinance a warm heart is found pulsing with spiritual life and power. Love tunes the heart to God and keeps it in tune. The Berlin Bible says, aptly: "Love is in a true sense God's omnipresence," and with the same meaning Tolstoi affirms: "Where love is there God is.' THE TEACHER'S LANTERN.

This paragraph alone is enough to justify the Old Testament forever from the charge of inutility and effeteness. Nothing could be more current, nothing more applicable to-day. It is a solvent for the labor problem and all ills, individual and collective. Love solves, heals, establishes. All law depends, in the ultimate analysis,

One glory of the religion of the Bible is the ease with which it is epitomized. Other religions tend to the multiplex and multiform and resist condensation. The true religion finds ample expression in a word of four letters-Love. The sense in which Jesus gave a new commandment, when He said: "Thou shalt love," is | For-never forget this-it is not men alone you this: The average Hebrew had so utterly forgotten it that its reaffirmation was to all intents and purposes the announcement of an original command. It was new to him.

Utterly gone to seed in ritualism had Israel The letter had killed the spirit. This was Jesus' contention with His countrymen. They were so busy tithing mint, anise and cummin that they forgot to love; hence they were wanting in the other essentials of religion: Judgment, mercy

the masterpieces of patriotic and religious eloquence. They have undoubtedly had strong molding influence upon national life and character for twenty centuries. The analogy to them of Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders has been pointed out.

A pathetic interest attaches to the journeys of the wise in quest of truth. They often thought it "beyond the sea" and made toilsome and futile voyages to attain it. They had not heard the benignant saying: "The word is very nigh | Turn the soul out to pasture in the latter unto thee, in thy mouth and in thy heart." No scripture more clearly enunciates the freedom of the will. "I have set before thee life and death, in that I command thee to love the

is the sole ground of rewardableness or punish-No finer commentary on this paragraph than

Lord. But if thine heart turn away." Freedom

"Nowhere does the fundamental religious thought of prophecy find clearer expression than in Deuteronomy-the thought that Jehovah asks nothing for himself, but asks it as a religious duty that man should render to man what is right; that God's will lies not in any unknown height, but in the moral sphere which is known and un-

> The essential difference between Islamism and Hebraism is apparent at this point. The former stands for absolute unloving power; the latter for obedience in love. The former makes men slaves; the latter makes them sons. The former makes God a tyrant; the latter makes Him a father. The former is the appeal to fear: the latter is the appeal to love.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Topic for Sept. 14, Delight in God's House-Psalm lxxxiv, 1-4; c, 1-5,

Electricity is everywhere. Sink a wire in the earth at any place and you will strike a current of it. It beats in all strata of the air. You carry it with you in your body. Only in certain places, however, is it visible or audible or carable of work. The dynamo gathers it up, and straightway there is a flash of light. a glow of heat or a thrust of power.

God also is everywhere, and electricity is only one of His far-darting thoughts. Moreover, God is equally at all places, no stronger or wiser or more loving at one place than another, able to work, to comfort and to enlighten no less in the prison cell, the sickroom and the lonely forest than in the solemn cathedral or the cheery chapel.

But, nevertheless, it is in God's house that God makes it especially easy for man to find Him, and it is there that the vast majority of men draw nearest to Him. Moreover, it is true that those who see and hear God in this His appointed meeting place are of all men most likely to see Him and hear Him everywhere else. The testimony of millions of Christians, the experience of the human race, should

gentleman, riding on horseback over a Kentucky road, met an old colored man painfully making his way through the deep snow to the church, four miles distant.

"Why, uncle!" exclaimed the gentleman, "why don't you stay home? You shouldn't travel so far on a day like this." "You see, massa," was the reply, "I dunno

when de blessing's gwine to come; an' s'pose it 'ud come this very mornin', an' I away!" Certainly no one ever went to church expecting a blessing and failed to receive it; nor does it often happen that any one obtains from church a blessing that he did not expect.

Faith, hope, love are transmitted from on to another by a subtle and delightful contagion. Delight in God and in His house passes easily from soul to soul. There is a story of a minister who called upon a certain church member that had been neglecting church attendance. In perfect silence the minister walked up to the fireplace, took the tongs, drew a live coal from the fire and watched it turn to a dull, black cinder on the hearth.

"You needn't say a single word, sir," said the church member. "I'll be there next Sunday." If your religion has been growing cold it is probably because you have been living away from the fire. Give yourself to church work. and the church will give you back a many-fold return. Your doubts will be overcome by the faith of others, your sorrows dispelled by their good cheer and sympathy, your failures be helped by their willing hands into successes. meet when two or three, or two or three hundred, gather in the church, but Christ "in the midst" of them.

AMOS R. WELLS. Forgotten Delights.

Boston Transcript. Long residence in the city almost obliterates childish memories of the delights of a real country fruit garden, where one could "pick and eat" with all the relish that freshly gathered fruit has when plucked amid the appetizing environments of nature-the rustling leaves, the soft twittering of the birds and all the stimulating charm of the open. One realizes in such place how city life deprives the senses how petty and warping are its hurry an turmoil and personalities when granted the boon of a revel among the "sweets and virtues of the ground." Nature is loved by what is best in us, and there can be no question as to which is the better, the city or the country life, It is our vanities that hold us to the former and how it refutes its city habit! Here is a native state that satisfies in a rational wholesome way the best needs of a rational being. And this ministration can be found even within the confines of a little acre long garden, a defined place where one can most conveniently watch the daily marvel of nature's craft. The unfolding of the buds, the blossoming of the flowers and the development of the harvest of luscious